

concerning the laws of admission of patients and their support. One section of the Act providing for the support of lunatics in the Province of New Brunswick reads, "when the real or personal estate of any lunatic or insane person is not more than sufficient to maintain the family of the lunatic, the expenses of the lunatic may be defrayed from the funds of the Asylum." Under this law, which is apt to be pretty liberally construed, the Asylum is crowded with inmates, as it is obliged to receive "subjects of all forms of unsoundness of mind, including idiocy, imbecility, or that caused by epilepsy, general paralysis, delirium tremens, and old age."

The Superintendent remarks that, "one of two things will require to be done; either enlarge the Institution and increase the annual grant for maintenance, or make the law more stringent, that it may exclude some who apply for admission, and compel others, who are now admitted free, to pay a part of the expense of their care."

There were admitted during the year 1865, 96—52 males and 44 females. The result of treatment was, 51 discharged, recovered; 6 much improved; 16 improved; 2 unimproved; and 27 died: leaving 194—103 males and 91 females in the Asylum at the end of the year.

Extensive repairs were in progress to secure the building from decay and to improve its external appearance, and inside make apartments useful which were before unfit to be occupied.

Northampton, March, 1867.

C. K. B.

## Reports of Medical Societies.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT. BY CHARLES D. HOMANS, M.D., SECRETARY.

DEC. 10th.—*Large ulcerated Tumor in the Stomach; Hæmorrhage from the Bowels; no Symptoms till a few Weeks before Death.* The case was reported by Dr. READ, in whose practice it occurred.

Mrs. —, æt. 42, was 5 feet in height, and weighed 196 pounds two months before her death; her family were noted for their good health and longevity. In one of her confinements she had a very tedious labor with a stillborn child, and flowed nearly to death, but from this condition her convalescence was rapid and entire. She had always enjoyed perfect health, and had never suffered in the slightest degree from nausea, dyspepsia, indigestion, or any affection of the stomach, and always had a good appetite, never having had a day's illness, save at her confinements, previous to the middle of September last, when she returned to the city from the country.

About the time of her return, she began to feel a little discomfort in breathing whenever she quickened her pace or ascended stairs; this gradually increased, but was attributed to her weight, which was some fifteen or twenty pounds greater than the year before. After her decease, it was remembered that she had for some time felt a certain degree of weight and discomfort on first retiring to bed, which soon, however, passed off.

I was called to see her on the 5th of November. She had been

VOL. LXXVI.—NO. 7A

wakened in the previous night by pain in the abdomen, followed by a diarrhœa, for which, on the supposition that it was a "bilious attack," she had taken a full cathartic dose of sweet tincture of rhubarb, with the result of producing very profuse evacuations. Her respiration was labored and thick. She was ordered a mixture to take, as occasion required, till the diarrhœa was checked, and then to commence a regimen for unfattening.

Nov. 8th.—Under the medicine advised, the diarrhœa abated for about twenty-four hours, when it began again, with great pain and a feeling of great discomfort in the bowels. The evacuations were described as tarry, black, offensive and scybalous. Pulse 80. Coincident with the diarrhœa, pulsation in the carotids was noticed, and her complexion was waxy, and there was a slight œdema of the face, but none of the extremities. For the pain, one fourth of a grain of sulphate of morphia was injected into the left arm, and the following ordered:—Podophyllin, gr. iv. ; leptandrin, gr. xvi. ; iridin, gr. viij. ; pulv. capsic., gr. iv. ; ext. cannab. Ind., gr. viij. M. Ft. pil. viij. One to be taken night and morning till free bilious evacuations should be produced.

9th.—On the next day there had been no evacuation from the bowels, but a great deal of pain, with soreness of the abdomen to the touch. Another injection of morphia, in the same quantity as on the 8th, was made, and an application of warm spirits of turpentine over the bowels.

9, P.M.—No evacuation from the bowels. Pain relieved by turpentine application. Complains very much of noise in her left ear, which is audible two feet from the head. It sounds like the chirping of a bird, or like the sound of the hair-spring of a watch. Urine normal in quantity and color, and gives no trace of albumen. General condition unchanged.

In the course of the night she began to have evacuations, and by the time of the visit on the 10th she had had five or six. In the course of the day began to experience trouble with her vision, and by 9, P.M., when I was again summoned, she had almost complete amaurosis. Dr. Buckingham saw her with me at this visit. She was ordered fifteen drops of the aromatic sulphuric acid once in three hours, with as much concentrated nourishment as she could take, and claret wine and water p. r. n. Before this, no inspection of the evacuations was had, but it was evident that the effect was that of hæmorrhage.

11th.—Refused to take the medicine through the night, and had two evacuations, one of which was almost entirely of blood. She was persuaded to commence the remedy, and after this had but two dejections. Pain in the abdomen continued. No return of her eyesight.

From this time till her death, on the 16th, there was no material change in her condition. She slept but very little, except by means of tincture of opium, of which she took 160 drops before she got under its influence, and then slept seven hours. During this time the pupils, which were completely dilated before, became strongly contracted ; the pulse remained at 96, which was about the average. Her urine, which had been scanty for about forty-eight hours, became very profuse, slightly opalescent in appearance, and 1010 in specific gravity. Under the microscope, it showed crystals of oxalate of lime and lithate of ammonia, with a few epithelial scales. The aromatic sulphuric

acid was changed for the following :—*R.* Quinæ sulph., ferri sulph., āā ℥ss.; acid. sulph. aromat., ℥ij.; syr. aurantii, ℥iv. *M.* Dose, half a teaspoonful once in four hours. Dr. D. H. Storer and Dr. Lewis saw her in consultation, but advised no change in the treatment. Up to the last no œdema of the extremities was noticed, nor did her eyesight return. Her mind remained clear, and she answered questions with perfect intelligence until her death.

The autopsy, conducted by Dr. C. W. Swan, revealed the following :—Adipose tissue over trunk and abdomen more than twice the usual thickness. Omentum a mass of fat. Cavity of pelvis, and in fact the whole abdominal cavity, full of bright golden yellow fat. Heart pale, small, not remarkably soft; valves normal. Liver, kidneys, and muscle, what was left, all pale. The tumor in the stomach was confined to the anterior parietes, of a regular and flattened oval form, and was sufficiently well defined. It measured six and a half inches in length, four and a half inches in width, and one and a half inches in thickness, and did not approach within three inches of either orifice. The mucous surface over it was the seat of extensive ulcerations; one of these measured about four by three inches, two others from three fourths to one inch in diameter, and there were others that were quite small. The edges of these ulcers were neither thickened, indurated, nor at all reddened, though the mucous membrane in the neighborhood of some of them was, in the recent state, ecchymosed. The substance of the tumor was fully exposed, so as to form the base of the three largest ulcers; and the appearance was that of a white, flaccid, tough structure, neither fibrous nor fatty, though, on incision, it seemed to be composed of these two last elements. An incision having been made into it through the serous surface, it seemed to consist of a fatty mass, with no more than the usual amount of fibrous tissue. With regard to position, it was shown to be between the mucous and the muscular coats. The stomach, which was otherwise quite healthy, weighed, since the examination, two pounds two and a half ounces, and a healthy one six and a half ounces. Intestines full of a black tarry substance, without much smell, and resembling disorganized blood. On the left ovary, a cyst about as large as an olive, perfectly transparent and filled with fluid. There was nothing peculiar about the lungs. Under the microscope, fatty degeneration was shown to have taken place to a great extent in all the tissues. No appearance of a malignant character in the tumor.

The ulcerations on the surface of the tumor suggest the query, whether a process similar in kind to that which takes place in the enucleation of uterine tumors, had not begun here? Whether, if the hæmorrhage had not proved fatal, the whole tumor might not have been turned out of its investing walls, and passed away by digestion in the stomach? There is, to a certain extent, an analogy between the two kinds of cases, and as we know from observation that in the case of uterine tumors this has taken place, there seems to be nothing in the condition of the case under consideration which would forbid such a result.